

REMARKS

By this Amendment, the specification is amended. Accordingly, claims 1-6 are pending in this application. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

I. Specification Objection

The Office Action objects to the specification because of informalities. The specification is amended only to correct the informality. No new matter is added. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

A. AOAPA in view of Morgan

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Applicant's Own Admission of Prior Art ("AOAPA") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,473,117 to Morgan et al. ("Morgan"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

AOAPA does not teach or suggest a shielded wire harness including a shielding member having "a main shield portion made of a metal pipe," as recited in claim 1.

The Office Action admits that AOAPA does not teach or suggest a shielding member formed in the tube shape, configured to enclose a plurality of wires collectively, connected to a shield case, and including a main shield portion made of metal pipe, and a sub-shield portion. However, the Office Action asserts that Morgan remedies the deficiencies of AOAPA. Notwithstanding these assertions, Morgan does not remedy the deficiencies of AOAPA. Specifically, Morgan does not teach or suggest a main shield portion made of a metal pipe, as set forth in claim 1.

Morgan teaches a flexible cable grounding scheme including a ground strap assembly 24, and a cable 10 having a plurality of conductors 18 collectively enclosed by an inner shield 16, an outer shield 14 and a hard plastic outer insulating sheath 12. See Figs. 1-3,

and col. 2, lines 61-65. Morgan teaches that the outer shield 14 and the inner shield 16 are made out of conductive foil shielding widely used in the electronics industry for cable shielding. See col. 2, line 67 - col. 3, line 8. Thus, the inner and outer shields do not constitute "a metal pipe" as set forth in claim 1.

Specifically, Morgan teaches that that the insulating sheath 10 must first be removed without damaging the outer shield 14. See Fig. 1, and col. 3, lines 20-22. Since an outer surface of the conductive foil is not normally conductive, the outer shield 14 is cut and folded back to expose a conductive inner surface providing an electrical contact with the ground strap assembly 24. See col. 3, lines 31-47. Therefore, Morgan teaches flexible outer and inner shields 14, 16 that are folded around and conform to an external shape of a bundle of the conductors 18 to provide electromagnetic shielding for the conductors 18. See col. 2, line 67 - col. 3, line 8. Therefore, the thin foil outer and inner shields 14, 16 cannot reasonably be considered to be a metal pipe as set forth in claim 1.

The shielded wire harness of claim 1 includes a tube-shaped shielding member 50 having a sub-shield portion 53 and a main shield portion 51. See Figs 1 and 2. Since the main shield portion 51 is made of metal pipe, the main shield portion 51 both electromagnetically shields and physically protects the wires 30 from external forces. See application page 13, lines 2-10. Such results cannot be achieved by combining the devices of AOAPA and Morgan. Morgan, like AOAPA, does not teach or suggest a main shield portion made of a metal pipe. Accordingly, Morgan and AOAPA, alone or in combination, would not have rendered obvious the shield wire harness of claim 1.

Therefore, claim 1 would not have been obvious by AOAPA in view of Morgan. Claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 depend from claim 1, and thus also would not have been rendered obvious by AOAPA in view of Morgan. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

B. AOAPA in view of Morgan, and further in view of Lawson

The Office Action rejects claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over AOAPA in view of Morgan, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,280,246 to Lawson et al. ("Lawson"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

As discussed above, neither AOAPA nor Morgan, alone or in combination, teach or suggest a shielded wire harness including a shielding member having "a main shield portion made of a metal pipe," as recited in claim 1. Lawson does not remedy the deficiencies of AOAPA and Morgan.

Lawson is directed to a ground shield connector 10 including a plurality of insulated wire conductors 12 individually shielded with a metallic shielding (braided members), and a tinned soft copper compression ring 20 fitted over a tinned brass collector ring 18 to hold all end portions 26 of the metallic shieldings of each of the wire conductors 12. See Figs. 2 and 4, and col. 2, line 56 – col. 3, line 40. Lawson does not teach or suggest that the compression ring 20 or the collector ring 18 are metal pipes that shield the conductors 12. For at least these reasons, Lawson, like AOAPA and Morgan, does not teach or suggest a main shield portion made of a metal pipe.

Claim 4 depends from claim 1, and thus would not have been rendered obvious by AOAPA in view of Morgan, and further in view of Lawson. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-6 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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